

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 3539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SP

SUBJECT: PRESS ALLEGES CHANGE U.S. VIEW ON NATO ENTRY SPAIN

1. "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, IN AN APPARENT AND STRANGE 'CHANGE OF POSITION'...HAS GIVEN INDICATIONS THAT THE CARTER GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PRESS FOR THE ADMISSION OF SPAIN INTO NATO UNTIL THE COMMITMENT OF SPANISH DEMOCRATIZATION IS MATERIALIZED AFTER THE CRUCIAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS OF JUNE," WIRTES NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT GUSTAVO VALVERDE FOR MAY 6 YA (DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE).

2. "LEAKS...ABOUT THE 'NEW U.S. POSITION ABOUT THE ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO' HAVE SPREAD IN WASHINGTON AND HAVE COINCIDED WITH THE EXIT OF THE PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE TO THE 'ECONOMIC SUMMIT' OF LONDON, AFTER WHICH THE NO LESS IMPORTANT MEETING OF MINISTERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WILL BE CELEBRATED.

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3. "AS IS KNOWN, AFTER THE TWO LONDON MEETINGS THE SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS VANCE, MOVES TO MADRID... TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN COUNCIL...VANCE WILL SET FORTH TO THE SPANISH AUTHORITIESTHE EXACT CONTENT OF THIS 'CHANGE OF POSITION'...AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT

THE COMING JUNE ELECTIONS WILL BE THE BAROMETER OR 'TEST' THAT WILL...DETERMINE THE TRUE COMMITMENT OF SPAIN TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. SUCH A STANCE -- SUGGESTED STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES -- DOES NOT IMPLY A LESSENERED U.S. SUPPORT FOR EVENTUAL SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. ON THE CONTRARY, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT AN ENDORSEMENT OR EXPRESS PETITION BY THE UNITED STATES TO ADMIT SPAIN INTO NATO 'RIGHT NOW' COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES THAT STILL WEIGH OVER THE SPANISH DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND OVER THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE ELECTIONS.

4. "THE WORLD MUST SEE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WHICH IS BEING ADVANCED TOWARD WITH THE ELECTIONS IS CONVERTED INTO PRACTICE, DECLARED AN ANONYMOUS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. 'IF THINGS GO WELL,' HE ADDED, 'IT WOULD NOT BE ANY SURPRISE TO FIND THAT A NUMBER OF NATO MEMBERS DIRECTLY INVITE SPAIN TO JOIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT MEANWHILE...THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES INTO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL WHEN THE MOMENT ARRIVES, BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO AHEAD AND OURSELVES BE THE ONES TO MAKE THE PROPOSAL.'

5. "IT IS IN THIS ANONYMOUS DECLARATION WHERE THE CHANGE IN THE TRADITIONAL ACTIVE POSITION, EARLIER MAINTAINED BY WASHINGTON, APPARENTLY CAN BE SEEN... IT IS KNOWN THAT EX-SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER RAISED UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PROPOSAL OF SPANISH PARTICIPATION AT VARIOUS NATO MEETINGS. CURIOUSLY, THE WHITE HOUSE MADE A DECLARATION ABOUT THE TOPIC ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT... OF PRESIDENT SUAREZ TO PRESIDENT CARTER...THE PRESS SPOKESMAN OF CARTER...SAID THAT BOTH STATESMEN DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF NATO. 'THE UNITED STATES,' POWELL SAID, 'SUPPORTS THE PARTICIPATION OF SPAIN IN NATO WHEN MADRID SHOWS ITSELF DISPOSED TO JOIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE...THE UNITED STATES WILL RESPECT THE CONSENSUS OF THE NATO MEMBERS WHEN THIS THEME IS RAISED.'

6. "ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN PRESS AGENCY DISPATCH, THE CARTER GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND ENGLAND 'ARE PREOCCUPIED ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE CURRENT MANDATE OF PRIME MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ. THE INFLUENCE OF POWERFUL FORCES OF THE FRANCOIST RIGHT, WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE ARMED FORCES...CURRENTLY

CONTRIBUTES TO THESE UNCERTAINTIES.'

7. "THE SAME DISPATCH DECLARES THAT THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST FACTIONS IN SPAIN POSTULATE THE CANCELLATION OF 'THE TREATIES' PERMITTING THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN MILITARY BASES ON SPANISH TERRITORY, WHILE THE RIGHTIST FACTIONS CONSIDER THAT THE BEST OPTION FOR SPAIN IS TO MAINTAIN HERSELF APART FROM NATO OWING TO THE MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS THAT THE CURRENT TREATY WITH THE U.S. INCLUDES, FROM WHICH SPAIN BENEFITS WITH ONE-POINT-TWO BILLION DOLLARS OF AMERICAN AID.

8. "THE ERUPTION OF ALL OF THESE LEAKS HAS NOT DONE MORE THAN SURPRISE OBSERVERS, MANY OF WHOM DETECT A SPECIES OF SMALL 'WAR OF NERVES' AMONG THE DIVERSE GROUPS FACING THE CRISES THAT IS UNFOLDING TODAY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SPAIN BECAUSE OF THE JUNE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, A PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS CONFIRMED...THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE ANY CHANGE OF POSITION AND 'CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO.'

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9. "IN OTHER SECTORS THE APPARENT 'CHANGE OF POSITION' BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE THEME OF NATO-SPAIN IS CONSTRUED AS A FORM OF 'CONSCIOUS LEAKAGE' TO CONDITION CERTAIN POLITICAL SEGMENTS IN SPAIN TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE EXPECTATIONS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS FOR THE RESULTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS OF JUNE 15."

10. "CARTER ABANDONS PRESSURES FOR THE ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO," HEADLINES SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE FROM BRUSSELS FOR MAY 6 EL PAIS (LEFT CENTER). "THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PRESSURE ITS ALLIES MORE FOR SPAIN TO ENTER NATO, PRIOR TO THE TOTAL DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE COUNTRY. THE NEWS HAS NOT CAUSED ANY APPARENT REACTION AT ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS, NOR DOES THE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE OF WASHINGTON, WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS SOUGHT TO IMPOSE THE SPANISH PRESENCE, APPEAR TO HAVE CAUSED SURPRISE. IN CIRCLES CLOSE TO THE NORDIC COUNTRIES...SATISFACTION HAS BEEN SHOWN FOR THE REALISM' OF JIMMY CARTER...IN THE CIRCLES MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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FAVORABLE TO THE SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO THE REACTION OF MOSCOW IS FEARED AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD WORK AT EVERY LEVEL TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF SPAIN AND THE RESULTING BREAKING OF THE CURRENT BALANCE OF FORCES. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE MILITARY ARE CERTAIN THAT THE SOVIET POSTURE WOULD ENCOUNTER A SERIOUS OBSTACLE IN THE RECENT RELATIONS BETWEEN MADRID AND MOSCOW, NOW THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT WANT TO PROVOKE A DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT WITH SPAIN, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HARDLY HAVING BEGUN. THE INCIDENT WOULD ARISE IF SOVIET CONDUCT WERE TO REACH THE POINT OF VERY PRONOUNCED PRESSURES."

11. AS REPLY TO QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM THESE REPORTS, EMBASSY HAS DRAFTER FOLLOWING STATEMENT, TO BE USED ON 'IF ASKED ONLY' BASIS:

12. "IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED THAT THE UNITED STATES POSITION VIS-A-VIS SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO HAS CHANGED IN RECENT DAYS. THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

13. "THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO AND CONTINUES TO DO SO. HOWEVER, THE DECISION IS NOT ONE FOR THE UNITED

STATES ALONE TO MAKE. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE
HAVE THEIR VIEWS. WHETHER OR NOT SPAIN ENTERS NATO
WILL BE A MATTER FOR EVENTUAL DECISION BY BOTH
SPAIN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE." IT
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